

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): An electrical bracket for mounting an electrical device to a wall stud, said bracket comprising:

a rectangular frame having first and second opposite end walls, first and second opposite side walls, and a front opening surrounded by said end walls and side walls for inserting an electrical device into said frame, said frame having an end-mounted position in which said first end wall faces a side surface of the stud;

a fastening tab extending from said first end wall in a direction away from said second end wall and configured to be fastened to a front surface of the stud when said frame is in said end-mounted position; and

a spacer extending from said first end wall in a direction away from second end wall, configured to abut the side surface of the stud and space said the entire first end wall from the side surface of the stud when said frame is in said end-mounted position.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): The bracket of claim 6 wherein said side walls are transversely spaced apart and said spacer is configured to abut the side surface of the stud along a transversely extending line of abutment.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The bracket of claim 6 further comprising a second such spacer ~~longitudinally spaced apart from~~ that is rearwardly farther from said front opening than is said first spacer.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The bracket of claim 6 wherein said side walls are transversely spaced apart and said bracket further comprises ~~further comprising~~ a second such spacer transversely spaced apart from said first spacer.

Claim 11 (original): An electrical bracket for mounting an electrical device to a wall stud, said bracket comprising:

a rectangular frame having first and second opposite end walls, first and second opposite side walls, and a front opening surrounded by said end walls and side walls for inserting an electrical device into said frame, said frame having an end-mounted position in which said first end wall faces a side surface of the stud and a side-mounted position in which said first side wall faces the side surface of the stud;

a fastening tab extending from said first end wall in a direction away from said second end wall, configured to be fastened to a front surface of the stud when said frame is in said end-mounted position; and

a fastener support extending from said first end wall in a direction away from said second end wall and configured to capture a stud-penetrating fastener that fastens said bracket to the stud when said frame is in said side-mounted position, said fastener support having a distal end configured to contact the side surface of the stud when said frame is in said end-mounted position.

Claim 12 (original): The bracket of claim 11 wherein said fastener support is configured to retain the fastener in an orientation in which the fastener extends alongside said first end wall and into the stud when said frame is in said side-mounted position.

Claim 13 (original): The bracket of claim 11 further comprising a stabilizer, separate from said fastener support, extending from said first end wall in a direction away from said second end wall, configured to contact the surface of the stud when said frame is in said end-mounted position to stabilize said frame from rocking about said fastener support relative to the stud.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (original): The bracket of claim 13 wherein said fastener support and said stabilizer are spaced from each other.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (previously presented): The bracket of claim 11 further comprising an extension extending from said first end wall to a location rearward from said side walls, and a stabilizer extending from said extension into abutting contact with the stud at a location rearward from said side walls when said frame is in said end-mounted position.

Claim 18 (previously presented): An electrical bracket for mounting an electrical device to a wall stud, said bracket comprising:

- a rectangular frame having first and second opposite end walls, first and second opposite side walls, and a front opening surrounded by said end walls and side walls for inserting an electrical device into said frame, said frame having an end-mounted position in which said first end wall faces a side surface of the stud;

- a fastening tab extending from said first end wall in a direction away from said second end wall and configured to be fastened to a front surface of the stud when said frame is in said end-mounted position; and

- a spacer extending from said first end wall in a direction away from second end wall, configured to abut the side surface of the stud and space said first end wall from the side surface stud when said frame is in said end-mounted position;

- said spacer being a fastener support configured to capture a stud-penetrating fastener that fastens said bracket to the stud when said frame is in a side-mounted position in which said first side wall faces the stud.

Claim 19 (previously presented): An electrical bracket for mounting an electrical device to a wall stud, said bracket comprising:

- a rectangular frame having first and second opposite end walls, first and second opposite side walls, and a front opening surrounded by said end walls and side walls for inserting an electrical device into said frame, said frame having an end-mounted position in which said first end wall faces a side surface of the stud and a side-mounted position in which said first side wall faces the side surface of the stud;

- a fastening tab extending from said first end wall in a direction away from said second end wall, configured to be fastened to a front surface of the stud when said frame is in said end-mounted position;

a fastener support extending from said first end wall in a direction away from said second end wall and configured to capture a stud-penetrating fastener that fastens said bracket to the stud when said frame is in said side-mounted position, said fastener support having a distal end configured to contact the side surface of the stud when said frame is in said end-mounted position; and

a stabilizer, separate from said fastener support, extending from said first end wall in a direction away from said second end wall, configured to contact the surface of the stud when said frame is in said end-mounted position to stabilize said frame from rocking about said fastener support relative to the stud;

said fastener support having a groove surface, and said stabilizer being configured to urge the fastener against the groove surface to retain the fastener in said groove surface.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The bracket of claim 6 further comprising an extension extending from said first end wall to a location rearward from said side walls, and a stabilizer extending from said extension into abutting contact with the stud at a location rearward from said side walls when said frame is in said end-mounted position.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The bracket of claim 20 wherein said extension is a plate extending rearward from, and parallel to, said first end wall.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The bracket of claim 20 wherein said stabilizer is a plate that is perpendicular to said first end wall, and the location of said abutting contact by said stabilizer is spaced from said first end wall in a direction away from said second end wall so as to space said first end wall from the stud when said frame is in said end-mounted position.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The bracket of claim 6, wherein the fastening tab is configured to accept a fastener.

Claim 24 (currently amended): An electrical bracket for mounting an electrical device to a wall stud, said bracket comprising:

a wall structure defining a front opening and having at least one end wall and at least a first and a second side wall, said wall structure having an end-mounted position in which said at least one end wall faces a side surface of a stud;

a fastening member extending from said at least one end wall and configured to be fastened to a front surface of a stud when the wall structure is in the end-mounted position; and

a spacing element coupled to said at least one end wall and configured to space the entire at least one end wall a distance from a side wall of a stud when in the end-mounted position.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The electrical bracket of claim 24, wherein the ~~spacer~~ spacing element is a fastener support configured to capture a stud-penetrating fastener that fastens said bracket to a stud when the wall structure is in a side-mounted position in which said first side wall faces a stud.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The electrical bracket of claim 24, wherein the fastening member is a tab having at least one fastener receiving opening defined therethrough, and the spacing element is a member that extends outwardly from the at least one end wall.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The electrical bracket of claim 26, wherein the spacing element comprises an extension that extends from and is coplanar with the at least one end wall, and at least one stabilizing member that extends outwardly from the extension, said at least one stabilizing member being configured to abut a side surface of a stud.

Claim 28 (currently amended): An electrical bracket for mounting an electrical device to a wall stud, said bracket comprising:

a wall structure defining a front opening and having at least one end wall and at least a first and a second side wall, said wall structure having an end-mounted position in which the at least one end wall faces a side surface of a stud;

a fastening member connected to the wall structure configured to fasten the wall structure to a stud when the wall structure is in the end-mounted position; and

means for spacing the entire wall structure a distance from a stud and for stabilizing the wall structure relative to a stud when the wall structure is in the end-mounted position.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The electrical bracket of claim 28, wherein the means for spacing and stabilizing comprises a spacing element extending from the at least one end wall and configured to abut a side surface of a stud.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The electrical bracket of claim 28, wherein the means for spacing and stabilizing comprises an extension surface that is coplanar with and extends from the at least one end wall, said extension surface being configured to stabilize the wall structure relative to a wall stud when in an end-mounted position, said distance being about zero or greater.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The electrical bracket of claim ~~28~~ 30, further comprising at least one stabilizing member extending outwardly from the extension surface, said stabilizing member being configured to abut a side surface of a wall stud at a distance that is greater than zero when the wall structure is in an end-mounted position.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The electrical bracket of claim 28, wherein the means for spacing and stabilizing comprises:

- a spacer extending from the at least one end wall and configured to abut a side surface of a stud in the vicinity of the fastening member;

- a fastener support extending from the at least one end wall configured to capture a stud-penetrating fastener for fastening the wall structure to a stud when the wall structure is in a side-mounted position, the fastener support configured to abut a side surface of a stud;

- an extension surface extending from and coplanar with the at least one end wall; and

- a stabilizing member extending from the extension surface configured to abut a side surface of a stud.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The electrical bracket of claim 32, wherein the extension surface is coplanar with the at least one end wall, the spacer has a first height, the fastener support has a second height, and the stabilizing member has a third height, and the first, second, and third heights are about the same.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The bracket of claim 33, wherein the stabilizing member is a plate that is perpendicular to the extension surface.

Claim 35 (new): An electrical bracket for mounting an electrical device to a wall stud, said bracket comprising:

- a rectangular frame having first and second opposite end walls, first and second opposite side walls, and a front opening surrounded by said end walls and side walls for inserting an electrical device into said frame, said frame having an end-mounted position in which said first end wall faces a side surface of the stud;

- a fastening tab extending from said first end wall in a direction away from said second end wall and configured to be fastened to a front surface of the stud when said frame is in said end-mounted position;

- a spacer extending from said first end wall in a direction away from second end wall, configured to abut the side surface of the stud and space said first end wall from the side surface of the stud when said frame is in said end-mounted position; and

- an extension extending from said first end wall to a location rearward from said side walls, and a stabilizer extending from said extension into abutting contact with the stud at a location rearward from said side walls when said frame is in said end-mounted position.

Claim 36 (new): The bracket of claim 35 wherein said extension is a plate extending rearward from, and parallel to, said first end wall.

Claim 37 (new): The bracket of claim 35 wherein said stabilizer is a plate that is perpendicular to said first end wall, and the location of said abutting contact by said stabilizer is spaced from said first end wall in a direction away from said second end wall so as to space said first end wall from the stud when said frame is in said end-mounted position.

Claim 38 (new): An electrical bracket for mounting an electrical device to a wall stud, said bracket comprising:

- a wall structure defining a front opening and having at least one end wall and at least a first and a second side wall, said wall structure having an end-mounted position in which said at least one end wall faces a side surface of a stud;

- a fastening member extending from said at least one end wall and configured to be fastened to a front surface of a stud when the wall structure is in the end-mounted position; and

- a spacing element coupled to said at least one end wall and configured to space the at least one end wall a distance from a side wall of a stud when in the end-mounted position;

- the spacing element being a fastener support configured to capture a stud-penetrating fastener that fastens said bracket to a stud when the wall structure is in a side-mounted position in which said first side wall faces a stud.

Claim 39 (new): An electrical bracket for mounting an electrical device to a wall stud, said bracket comprising:

- a wall structure defining a front opening and having at least one end wall and at least a first and a second side wall, said wall structure having an end-mounted position in which said at least one end wall faces a side surface of a stud;

- a fastening member extending from said at least one end wall and configured to be fastened to a front surface of a stud when the wall structure is in the end-mounted position; and

- a spacing element coupled to said at least one end wall and configured to space the at least one end wall a distance from a side wall of a stud when in the end-mounted position;

- the fastening member being a tab having at least one fastener receiving opening defined therethrough, and the spacing element being a member that extends outwardly from the at least one end wall; and

- the spacing element comprising an extension that extends from and is coplanar with the at least one end wall, and at least one stabilizing member that extends outwardly from the extension, said at least one stabilizing member being configured to abut a side surface of a stud.

Claim 40 (new): An electrical bracket for mounting an electrical device to a wall stud, said bracket comprising:

a wall structure defining a front opening and having at least one end wall and at least a first and a second side wall, said wall structure having an end-mounted position in which the at least one end wall faces a side surface of a stud;

a fastening member connected to the wall structure configured to fasten the wall structure to a stud when the wall structure is in the end-mounted position; and

means for spacing the wall structure a distance from a stud and for stabilizing the wall structure relative to a stud when the wall structure is in the end-mounted position;

the means for spacing and stabilizing comprising an extension surface that is coplanar with and extends from the at least one end wall, said extension surface being configured to stabilize the wall structure relative to a wall stud when in an end-mounted position, said distance being about zero or greater.

Claim 41 (new): The electrical bracket of claim 40, further comprising at least one stabilizing member extending outwardly from the extension surface, said stabilizing member being configured to abut a side surface of a wall stud at a distance that is greater than zero when the wall structure is in an end-mounted position.

Claim 42 (new): An electrical bracket for mounting an electrical device to a wall stud, said bracket comprising:

- a wall structure defining a front opening and having at least one end wall and at least a first and a second side wall, said wall structure having an end-mounted position in which the at least one end wall faces a side surface of a stud;

- a fastening member connected to the wall structure configured to fasten the wall structure to a stud when the wall structure is in the end-mounted position; and

- means for spacing the wall structure a distance from a stud and for stabilizing the wall structure relative to a stud when the wall structure is in the end-mounted position;

- the means for spacing and stabilizing comprising:

 - a spacer extending from the at least one end wall and configured to abut a side surface of a stud in the vicinity of the fastening member;

 - a fastener support extending from the at least one end wall configured to capture a stud-penetrating fastener for fastening the wall structure to a stud when the wall structure is in a side-mounted position, the fastener support configured to abut a side surface of a stud;

 - an extension surface extending from and coplanar with the at least one end wall; and

 - a stabilizing member extending from the extension surface configured to abut a side surface of a stud.

Claim 43 (new): The electrical bracket of claim 42, wherein the extension surface is coplanar with the at least one end wall, the spacer has a first height, the fastener support has a second height, and the stabilizing member has a third height, and the first, second, and third heights are about the same.

Claim 44 (new): The bracket of claim 43, wherein the stabilizing member is a plate that is perpendicular to the extension surface.